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What the House Can Do.

There is not much that the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-fifth Congress can do to promote Democratic interests in the future.

There is one thing it can do.

It can kill the atrocious and unnecessary River and Harbor bill that is now under consideration. It can make the authors and promoters of the measure ashamed of themselves.

This is what the Democratic majority can do for the party. They can win up the session and hand over the control with clean hands.

Minority Rule in the North.

A letter which we printed last Monday exhibited very plainly the condition of things in Connecticut, where a Democratic vote does not count for what it is worth, and where at State Election after State election the winners lose and the vanquished are victorious.

The same thing is true, in a measure, of New York. The Democracy is a tremendous disadvantage, owing to inequality of representation in the Legislature.

The same thing is true, likewise, in New Jersey. An unjust and unfair apportionment produces year after year a Republican Legislature to make laws for that strongly Democratic State.

Suppose that Senator CHANDLER turns his attention to the three Northern States of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. These States are represented in the United States Senate by six Senators, four of whom belong to the party in the minority and controlling the several Legislatures only through unjust apportionments.

Boulanger Defines His Programme.

Whoever wrote General BOULANGER's campaign address to the electors of the Department of the Seine—and we seem to trace it in the hand of ROCHERFORT—it is unquestionably a clever document. It is well calculated to allay the suspicions of the most advanced Radicals, for his programme is identical with theirs in the essential particular of proposing to leave the whole subject of constitutional reform to a constitutional convention expressly chosen for the purpose.

By confining himself to this simple proposition, BOULANGER diverts criticism from his personal designs and plants himself on safer ground than that which M. FLOQUET and his friends now occupy. For the latter have not only defined the changes they wish to see made in the organic law, but have insisted that the function of revision shall be discharged by a Congress made up of the Senate and the present Chamber of Deputies. They have thus managed to offend in two ways the representatives of extreme Radical opinion whose strongholds are Paris, Lyons, and Marseilles.

From the point of view of Jacobins and Socialists, the Ministerial project of reform seems decidedly reactionary, since, although it weakens the Senate, it makes the President much stronger than he is now, and at least aims to make the Ministers much less dependent on the popular Chamber. This would be moving in precisely the opposite direction to that advocated by the Paris Rode, who would like to abolish the Presidency as well as the Senate, and concentrate the powers of government in a single Chamber, which should be the counterpart of the Convention of 1793.

Not only are the Radicals opposed to the FLOQUET programme of revision, but also to the instrumentality by which it would be carried out. To them no part of the Constitution framed by the monarchial Assembly of Versailles is more detestable than the provision made for its own amendment. They think that the Senate, not having been elected by the people, ought to take no part in the Constitution-changing process. They would exclude also from participation in this function the members of the present Chamber of Deputies on the plausible ground that, when they were elected, the question of amending the organic law was not before the people. The utmost which they think the present Chamber can equitably do is to meet in joint session and consign the subject of revision to a constitutional assembly, whose election they should authorize.

This is just what BOULANGER advises in his address to the Paris voters. He insists that the nation must decide what kind of government it wants, and he refrains from anticipating its decision by the avowal of personal views. From the point of view of a political strategy this is, we repeat, a very strong position, and we should not be surprised to see victory achieved from it in the coming by-election for the Department of the Seine. It is, at all events, a strange angle of the times to see Monarchists, Imperialists, Boulangists, Jacobins, and Socialists all united in demanding the complete relegation of constitutional reform to the sovereign people, while the adherents of FLOQUET and FERRY are the sole defenders of the remnants of the Constitution devised by the Versailles Assembly for the purpose of minimizing the direct action of the popular will.

The present state of things recalls the curious political entanglement of December, 1891, when the Paris Societe witnessed with astounded concern Lord NARON's overthrow of the Second Republic, with which they had become disaffected.

The City's Sidewalk Ordinances.

According to the annual report of the Corporation Attorney, the street and sidewalk regulations, which form part of the law regulations of this city, are enforced in a most slowly and imprudent manner, unless, as seems to be generally the case, they are by reason of their absurd and conflicting character not susceptible of enforcement at all.

It seems that during the year 1898 the Board of Police, spurred by the frequent letters and communications of Mayor HEWITT, forwarded to the office of the Corporation Attorney not less than 47,257 separate and distinct complaints. Of these, 4,013 were not acted upon on account of want of jurisdiction, and 8,571 were for violations of what that office calls "the snow and ice ordinance." The remaining 34,773 were for

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